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Governor Napolitano Proclaims October as “Children’s Environmental Health Month”

PHOENIX (Oct. 7, 2008) – Governor Janet Napolitano has proclaimed October as “Children’s Environmental Health Month,” an action that emphasizes the importance of efforts to protect Arizona’s children from harmful pollutants, according to Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens.

“A bright future for Arizona’s children depends upon our commitment to reduce environmental risks to their health and provide information and educational materials to help families and educators prevent children’s exposure and treatment to these risks,” Governor Napolitano said in her proclamation.

Director Owens said ADEQ has made great strides in protecting children from environmental dangers. Among the efforts mentioned in the Governor’s proclamation are ADEQ’s programs to address school bus idling reductions, test for leaking fuel storage tanks at schools, promote integrated pest management at schools, develop asthma action plans and test for lead in school fountains.

“Nearly 160 Arizona school districts with more than 5,000 buses participate in our school bus idling program, which protects more than 700,000 Arizona school children from exposure to harmful diesel exhaust each school day,” Director Owens said. “Many districts also are taking part in our underground storage tank program, and we are in the process of developing an air quality flag program to give parents and school administrators early warnings about high air pollution days.”

In recognition of Children’s Environmental Health Month, ADEQ is sponsoring events at Show Low Lake and Fools Hollow Lake on Wednesday, Oct. 8 in which 125 Show Low High School biology students will test and assess the water quality of the two lakes throughout the day.